Case 2:07-cv-04936-MAM Document 55-17

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DAVID BUSH AND : No. 07-4936 CHRISTOPHER BUSH : vs. :

S.C. ADAMS, LT., et al:

Thursday, January 7, 2010

Deposition of JOSEPH TRIPP, taken pursuant to notice at the offices of Attorney General, Norristown, Pennsylvania, on the above date, beginning at approximately 1:12 p.m. before Barbara C. Stalheim, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public.

BUCKS COUNTY COURT REPORTERS 99 Lantern Drive, Suite 201A Doylestown, Pennsylvania 18901 215.348.1173

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COUNSEL APPEARED AS FOLLOWS:

BRIAN M. PURICELLI, ESQUIRE
691 Washington Crossing Road
Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940
for the Plaintiffs

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2 (It is hereby stipulated 3 and agreed by and between counsel for 4 the respective parties that signing, 5 sealing and certification are waived; 6 and that all objections, except as to 7 the form of the question, are reserved 8 to the time of trial.) Q 10 JOSEPH TRIPP, after having 11 been duly sworn, was examined as 12 13 follows: 14 15 PROCEEDINGS 16 BY MR. PURICELLI: 17 Good afternoon, Sergeant Tripp. 18 Q. 19 Good afternoon. A. 20 Q. I take I told you were present and heard the instructions I gave Lieutenant 21 22 Ignatz? Yes. 23 A. Okay. Knowing all of those 24 Q. instructions are you -- do you have any

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2	2 questions in regards to any of that?					Because that was one of the		
3	A.	None.		3	questions	questions that was brought up during his,		
4	Q.	All right. I started off w	ith	4	Chris Bush's, hearing.			
5	the lieuter	nant in asking if you had r	eviewed	5	Q.	Okay.		
6	anything	before coming today.		6	A.	And I wanted to make sure I fully		
7		Did you review an	ything	7	understo	od because I didn't really understand		
8	before con	ming today?		8	the day o	f this what he was actually asking		
9	A.	Yes. I reviewed my testi	mony	9	me.			
10	from I be	lieve it was his arbitration		10	Q.	Okay. Before you testified had		
11	hearing.			11	you revie	ewed that Act?		
12	Q.	He being Christopher Bu	ısh.	12	A.	Before I testified at.		
13	Α.	Chris. Yes.		13	Q.	Yes?		
14	Q.	Thanks. Okay. Yes.		14	A.	Chris Bush's.		
15		I'll show you that		15	Q.	Yes?		
16	documen	t. See if I can. I've marke	d the	16	A.	No.		
17	page for y	you. I believe you start at	117.	17	Q.	And in the course of any of the		
18	A.	Yes.		18	activities	you were questioned about in that		
19	Q.	Okay. And so that's what	at you	19	Act or	strike that that deposition,		
20	reviewed	?		20	that arbi	tration had you reviewed that Act?		
21	A.	Yes. Appears to be.		21	A.	Repeat the question, please.		
22	Q.	Okay. Did you review a	nything	22	Q.	Sure.		
23	else?			23		Before you engaged in any		
24	Α.	The Municipal Police Ac	ct, also.	24	of the co	nduct that had been discussed at the		
25	Q.	Okay. Why did you rev	iew that?	25	arbitrati	on, your conduct		

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			7			8
1		JOSEPH TRIPP		1		JOSEPH TRIPP
2	A.	Yes.		2	Q.	So would it be fair to say that
3	Q.	had you reviewed that Act?		3	whatever	was in that Act that you read was
4	A.	No.		4	not a fact	tor in your actions that you were
5	Q.	Would it be fair to say then that		5	being ask	xed about?
6	you did n	ot consider the information learned		6	A.	Correct.
7	after you	r review to do the actions that you		7	Q.	Okay. Now, you can keep that in
8	were bein	g questioned about?		8	front of y	ou. If you turn to page 123 around
9	A.	One more time.		9	line eight	
10	Q.	Sure. I'll do it slowly.		10	A.	Yes.
11		In that arbitration you		11	Q.	You had indicated that
12	were ask	ed a serious of events and acts by		12	paraphra	asing that area of testimony you
13	you.			13	were told	I by David Bush that his kids were
14		Correct?		14	put into	NCIC.
15	A.	Correct.		15		Correct?
16	Q.	Okay. Since then you looked at		16	Α.	Correct.
17	the Muni	cipal Police Officers Jurisdictional		17	Q.	Okay. And you were asked by who.
18	Act.			18		Correct?
19		Correct?		19	A.	Correct.
20	A.	Correct.		20	Q.	Okay. And your testimony is he
21	Q.	All right. But you had not done		21	didn't te	ll you.
22	that befo	re the activities that you were		22	A.	That is correct.
23	being ask	ked about.		23	Q.	Okay. Why would you want to know
24		Correct?		24	that?	
25	A.	Correct.		25	A.	I want to know what police agency

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2	was also	investigating the same case	e we were.	2	today tha	t you			
3	Q.								
4	see wheth	ner or not David Bush was	truthful in	4	children	had b			
5	saying hi	s kids were put into NCIC	?	5	A.	Did			
6	A.	Yes, sir.		6	Q.	Yes.			
7	Q.	You did?		7	A.	01			
8	A.	Yes.		8					
9	Q.	Did you indicate that yo	u never	9	Q.	Yes.			
10	looked at	NCIC before in your testi	mony?	10	Α.	go			
11	A.	Never looked at NCIC b	efore about	11	believe so).			
12	what?			12	Q.	Did			
13	Q.	Whether the kids were e	ntered or	13	if a subor	dinat			
14	not.			14	entered t	he chi			
15		Do you recall revi	ewing in	15	A.	I be			
16	your revi	iew saying that?		16	me that h	e che			
17	Α.	No.		17	there.				
18	Q.	Okay. Now, everything	that you	18	Q.	So y			
19	testified	to under oath at that arbit	ration	19	being tru	thful.			
20	was that	true and correct?		20	A.	Wit			
21	Α.	To the best of my recolle	ection.	21	Q.	Yes			
22	Yes.			22	A.	Yes			
23	Q.	At that time.		23					
24	Α.	Yes.		24	us with a	copy			

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Okay. So is it your testimony

25

Q.

looked at NCIC to see whether Bush was being truthful that his peen put into NCIC? d I, personally --S. or did somebody else? Me, personally -go and run his -- I don't d you review any reports to see te under you at Troop F had ildren into NCIC? elieve Corporal Wheeler told ecked NCIC and the kids were in you knew that David Bush was ith the NCIC entry? s. And I believe he provided 24 us with a copy of it. 25 Q. Okay. So you knew he was telling

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11 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 2 the truth. 2 When I first met David Bush I 3 Well, again, it was verified that 3 didn't know him from Adam. Okay? There is A. 4 the kids were in NCIC. 4 other individuals including Corporal Wheeler that I believe they might have even went to All right. The fact is he told 5 Q. 5 you they were there and that was truthful. school together. I don't know. But he's 6 6 7 7 known Mr. Bush for a long time. Correct? 8 8 So --A. He told me what. Q. 9 Q. The kids were entered and that 9 A. He was the one that flew the 10 was truthful. 10 flags up right away. 11 A. Correct. 11 Okay. Well, based on our short 12 Q. Okay. The fact is that when he 12 conversation are you telling me that your told you that you didn't believe him though. testimony under oath before the arbitrator 13 13 14 Did you? 14 may not be accurate or true? 15 A. Wouldn't say either way. 15 A. No. I'm not saying it was not Q. Well, didn't you testify at the accurate. 16 16 17 arbitration nothing he told you you believed? 17 Q. Okay. So I can rely on those 18 A. Everything that he told you you answers to be accurate and true? 18 19 had to verify. 19 A. To the best of my belief at that 20 Q. Is that what you testified to at 20 time. Yes. the arbitration? 21 And having reviewed it, is there 21 Q. 22 Do you recall? 22 anything that you want to change? 23 I testified to did I trust what 23 I have not read the whole thing he was telling me? 24 24 in front of you. 25 25 Q. Yeah. When did you get a copy of your

Q.

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2	testimony	?		2	Q.	Yes.
3	Α.	Awhile ago.		3	A.	Yes.
4	Q.	How long is awhile ago?		4	Q.	Okay. Do you remember when you
5	A.	I don't know.		5	were told	you were going to come today?
6	Q.	Well, I don't know unles	s you	6		MR. HENZES: Objection to
7	tell me.			7	the -	- you're asking for attorney-client
8		How many days?	Months?	8	privi	lege information.
9	A.	I don't know, either. I d	on't	9		MR. PURICELLI: He can
10	know.			10	tell n	ne yes or no.
11		MR. HENZES: I	ts been	11	BY MR.	PURICELLI:
12	asked	d and answered. He doesn	ı't know.	12	Q.	I'm not asking what when you were
13		THE WITNESS:	I don't	13	told.	
14	know	/.		14		MR. HENZES: What's the
15	BY MR. I	PURICELLI:		15	diffe	rence?
16	Q.	Is it more than a week?		16		MR. PURICELLI: Big
17	Α.	Yes.		17	diffe	rence. My next question
18	Q.	Okay. Is it more than tw	vo weeks?	18		MR. HENZES: No. It
19	A.	I would bet it was more	than two	19	elicit	ts it's attorney-client privilege
20	weeks.			20	info	rmation one way or the other.
21	Q.	How about this way: Yo	ou came to	21		MR. PURICELLI: It's not
22	the know	ledge that you were going	to be	22	attor	rney-client privilege. You know
23	deposed i	n this action.		23	that.	
24		Correct?		24		MR. HENZES: Suffice it to
25	A.	For this current one?		25	say i	ts been at least over a month.

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15 16 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 2 MR. PURICELLI: I will get back into that in a second. 3 agree that he's not waiving 3 The information about your 4 attorney-client privilege to the extent 4 history with the State Police is that 5 5 correct? that it may apply. 6 MR. HENZES: Its been over 6 A. Yes. 7 7 a month that he's had it. Q. Okay. Have you had any other law 8 MR. PURICELLI: Okay. 8 enforcement experience other than what you 9 MR. HENZES: If that's 9 testified to? 10 what your question is. 10 A. BY MR. PURICELLI: 11 11 Q. Okay. Have you received any 12 I'm trying to find out how long 12 training whatsoever from the Pennsylvania 13 you've had the transcript. That's all. **State Police?** 13 I know it's going to be a 14 So we can agree you've had 14 15 the transcript after you learned you were 15 yes, but -going to be deposed or before? 16 16 Yes. A. 17 A. I don't know. 17 Q. Okay. Did any of that training 18 O. You don't know? 18 involve the crimes code? 19 A. I honestly don't know. 19 A. 20 Q. Well, relying on your best 20 Q. Did any of it involve the 21 recollection then when you reviewed it did 21 statutes in the crimes code? anything jump out at you and say that's not 22 A. 23 true what I said? 23 Q. Were you taught how to read the 24 crimes code statute? A. 24 25 Q. Oh, okay. Now, we were -- we'll 25 Yes. A.

Case 2:07-cvs04936-MAM Document 55-171 Filed 10/01/160cpt Plage 5 of 9 2 2 investigate just because there's a history of whereabouts, but with their mother is and 3 missing? 3 domestic violence? You used the term missing 4 Is that what you're 4 A. 5 5 children. telling me? 6 There's a big difference. 6 Q. I did. A. 7 That's your opinion. What is the difference? 7 A. Q. 8 A. The difference is if I remember 8 Q. Do you prefer me to use the term 9 9 correctly, I believe he was under a PFA and concealed that appears in your police was to have no contact. And they left a 10 reports? 10 11 A. Mr. Bush told us where his kids 11 couple years before that, I believe. 12 And so they were missing. 12 were. Q. 13 Weren't they? 13 Oh, well then why, if that was Q. 14 the report labled concealment of whereabouts 14 A. No. In my opinion, no. of the child if you knew where they were? 15 Q. Oh, okay. 15 A. And according to the attorney or 16 It was not where we -- he stated 16 the district attorney of Tioga County, he's 17 they were with his mother. When you take --17 that's pretty much what he's telling us is 18 the one who made the ultimate decision that, 18 19 no, they're not missing. 19 going on. 20 So you're saying the district 20 Okay. And he told you he didn't O. Q. 21 know where she was or the kids. 21 attorneys told you that you weren't to 22 Right? 22 investigate the whereabouts of the kids? 23 Could you define investigate? 23 A. Correct. A. 24 Q. So there's a big difference, 24 Define anything you want.

23

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JOSEPH TRIPP

the district attorney told you in your mind,

attempt to locate kids if in your mind you

said you knew where they were; with the

under oath that a district attorney says

locate the whereabouts of kids that that

That is correct.

you received to make that conclusion?

presented to the district attorney.

When?

wouldn't classify them as missing?

That was his decision.

And you were to follow it.

Aren't you?

So are you trying to tell me

Okay. And on what training have

I didn't make the conclusion.

No. The information was

You didn't make the conclusion.

Pretty much considered an attempt

Why would you be trying to

isn't there, Sergeant about knowing kids'

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Sergeant?

to locate.

mother?

A.

Q.

A.

O.

A.

Q.

A. Q.

A.

Q.

Yes.

A.

Q.

24 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 2 He made --A. 3 When? Q. 4 Corporal Wheeler was on the phone A. 5 with him, I believe, the day that I was talking to David Bush. 6 7 I want to show you what's been 8 marked as Ignatz-5. 9 Could you identify that 10 front page for me? 11 A. It's an incident report. 12 Q. About what? 13 About what? A. 14 Q. About what? 15 Concealments of the whereabouts A. of a child. 16 Q. What child? 17 A. The Bush children. 18 19 Q. The Bush children. The ones you say weren't missing. 20 21 Correct? 22 A. Correct. 23 Q. Okay. This is what in regards to David Bush's interaction with you and the corporal? 25

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I want you to tell me what

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- 2 Did you go through the crimes 3 from the beginning to the end including the 4 definitions? 5 A. I don't believe we covered every 6 section. 7 Okay. But they taught you how to Q. 8 read the crimes code. 9 A. Yes. 10 0. Did you at any time ever consult 11 sections 2908 and 2909 of the crimes code? 12 They would have been the ones you were reviewing in the book earlier 13 14 today. 15 Right. A. Q. 16 Okay. 17 What are you asking? When did A. 18 I --19 Q. Before today when you were 20 looking at the book I was showing --21 A. Yes.
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Yes.

-- Lieutenant Ignatz.

So you've seen those statutes

22

23

24

25

22

23

24

25

Q.

A.

Q.

Yes.

Q.

A.

Q.

before.

2 Correct.

- Q. Did you ask anybody in the
- 4 department to interpret those statutes for
- 5 you?

3

7

8

- 6 Inside the department? A.
 - Q.
 - I interpreted them and also A.
- 9 Corporal Wheeler the crime unit supervisor
- 10 interpreted them.
- 11 Q. Okay. And do you recall when you
- 12 first asked the corporal to interpret them
- for you? 13
- 14 I don't think I asked him to
- 15 interpret them for me. He interpreted them
- himself and we talked about it. 16
- 17 Okay. Was that before or after Q.
- 18 David Bush reported his children missing?
- 19 It was the day of David Bush A.
- 20 coming in.
- 21 Q. Okay. Now, were you present when
- David Bush arrived at the police at the 22
- station? 23
- 24 A.
- 25 Q. Okay. And what, if anything,

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19 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 2 were you doing at the time he came in? 3 I don't recall. A. 4 Q. Okay. 5 A. Working. 6 Q. How did you come to interact with 7 David Bush if you did on that day? 8 I think being notified by 9 Corporal Wheeler that David Bush was in the lobby and was making a complaint of his kids 10 11 being missing or whatever you want to deem 12 that. 13 Q. Okay. And before that particular day had the corporal always told you every 14 time somebody came in to make a report? 15 16 A. 17 Q. What was there a difference this 18 time that you had to be told? 19 Because there's an issue with David Bush's past history with his wife and 20 there's a multitude of background information 21

1 JOSEPH TRIPP 2 A. 3 Q. Okay. And what did the corporal 4 tell you? 5 A. History in domestic violence. 6 Multitude of PFA violations. Stuff like 7 that. 8 Okay. Well, tell me exactly what Q. 9 you recall him saying other than that. 10 The history of domestic violence. PFA violations. PFA just recently expired 11 12 and now he's looking for his kids. 13 Okay. And as a result of that Q. did you form any opinions or conclusions 14 about what the corporal told you about David 15 Bush? 16 17 A. Sure. 18 Q. What? 19 A. That he's been involved with

- 20 domestic violence.
- 21 Q. And is that all?
- 22 A. That's just it in a nutshell.
- 23 Q. Okay. And the Pennsylvania State
- Police when they train you to take reports of 24
- 25 missing children do they train you not to

The corporal was aware?

Are you saying the corporal was?

that I was unaware of with Mr. Bush.

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2	Α.	What do you mean this is	what?		2	took it up	on yourself under State Police
3	Q.	Is this the incident report	that		3	policy to n	not investigate all of the facts?
4	you create	ed			4	Α.	Again, I told you that we provide
5	Α.	No.			5	the inform	nation to the district attorney. He
6	Q.	or had created?			6	makes the	decision on which way we're going.
7	Α.	No. This is Trooper Whis	ner's		7	Q.	Well, you said you talked to the
8	report.				8	district at	torney the first day.
9	Q.	About what?			9	Α.	I did not.
10	Α.	The concealment about th	e		10	Q.	That's what you just told me
11	whereabo	uts of a child.			11	under oat	h.
12	Q.	Okay. And that's a crime	in this		12		Didn't you?
13	state?				13	A.	No. I didn't.
14	A.	Depends.			14		MR. HENZES: No. He
15	Q.	Depends on what?			15	didn'	t.
16	A.	Depends on whether you l	nave a		16	BY MR. I	PURICELLI:
17	defense as	s far of domestic violence.			17	Q.	Well, you just told me your
18	Q.	Well, were you to investig	ate the		18	corporal -	-
19	defense or	r collect the facts to present	to an		19	A.	Corporal Wheeler.
20	attorney?				20	Q.	Corporal Wheeler did.
21		What was your job	?		21	Α.	Uh-huh.
22	A.	Our job is to investigate w	hat		22	Q.	But you said he was talking to
23	his compl	aint is.			23	you and t	old you about it.
$\dot{24}$	Q.	So just because you knew	that		24		Isn't that what you told
25	there mig	ht be a defense, are you say	ing you		25	me?	
	Bu	cks County Court Reporters 215.348.1173				Bu	icks County Court Reporters 215.348.1173
				27		=	
1		JOSEPH TRIPP			1		JOSEPH TRIPP
	1.0	Little Life in the later				-	

2 A. Relying on the facts presented to 2 A. Told me about what? 3 About all this domestic violence 3 me. Q. 4 Aren't you required as a member 4 stuff. 5 of the State Police to have a full and 5 When he first came in? Yeah. A. Uh-huh. 6 thorough investigation? 6 Q. 7 7 A. On the first day? A. Before he ever got through the 8 Q. Got to start sometime. 8 door. 9 9 Q. First day, what's the first entry Don't you? 10 A. What's your -- I'm missing the 10 on this report say? question then. 11 Maybe I'll make it simple. 11 I'm asking you aren't you 12 Could you show me on the 12 13 first entry where it says he talked to the 13 supposed to as a policy of the Pennsylvania State Police have a thorough and detailed 14 district attorney? 14 investigation? MR. HENZES: Who's he? 15 15 THE WITNESS: This is 16 A. Yes. 16 17 17 Q. Okay. And that includes the Trooper Whisner's report. activities relevant to the investigation. 18 BY MR. PURICELLI: 18 19 Correct? 19 Right. 20 Correct. 20 Did you show me anywhere A. 21 And the first activity you're 21 on this report where it says anybody from telling me under oath is the corporal talks your department on the first day of this 22 22 to you and that doesn't appear in any of the 23 report called the district attorney? 23 reports. 24 24 A.

25

So how do you know he did it?

25

Q.

Isn't that true?

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3	Q.	Okay.
	-	
4	Α.	Do I trust my crime corporal?
5	Absolutel	y .
6	Q.	Okay. Now, he tells you all
7	these thin	gs and you decided you're not going
8	to deem t	he children missing.
9		Is that true?
10	Α.	Not my decision to make, as I
11	stated bei	fore.
12	Q.	So you're telling me the District
13	Attorney'	s office tells you or your man who
14	then tells	you these children are not
15	missing.	
16		Is that what you're
17	saying?	
18	Α.	It was deemed to be attempt to
19	locate the	kids. Pretty much check the
20	welfare o	f the kids.
21	Q.	Then why was it listed as a crime
22	on this re	port?
23	Α.	That's the way it came in. These
24	kind of re	eports are unfounded all the time.
25	An allege	d crime comes in. We investigate

JOSEPH TRIPP

1

2

given to me.

2 it. That's why the block is up there to be 3 unfounded. 4 Q. Okay. But this didn't turn out 5 to be unfounded. 6 Did it? 7 I don't know what the end result A. 8 is. 9 Q. You don't? 10 Exceptionally cleared. A. Prosecution declined is the end result. 11 12 Q. Which means what? 13 A. The district attorney chose not 14 to prosecutor. 15 Q. So his complaint that the children were being concealed had to be 16 founded. 17 18 Correct? 19 A. Not necessarily. 20 Q. No? 21 Well, did you eyer read 22 this report? 23 A. 24 Q. Attributes activity to you. 25 Doesn't it?

JOSEPH TRIPP

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2	Α.	Excuse me?		2	Lieutenan	t Ignatz's testimony.	
3	Q.	It attributes activity to you.	(8)	3		Correct?	
4		Doesn't it?		4	Α.	Correct.	
5	A.	Yes.		5	Q.	And he's higher in rank than you.	
6	Q.	Okay. So you did know what was		6		Correct?	
7	going on.			7	A.	Correct.	
8		Didn't you?		8	Q.	And he testified that sergeants	
9	A.	All the facts? Probably not.		9	and himse	elf and higher go to supervisory	
10	Q.	All right. Let's find		10	schools.		
11	A.	Was I kept updated? Yes.		11		Didn't he?	
12	Q.	You were in what supervisory		12	A.	That's correct.	
13	13 capacity in the barracks when this call came			13	Q.	Was that accurate?	
14	in?			14	A.	Uh-huh.	
15	A.	Station commander.		15	Q.	Okay. He testified that	
16	Q.	Nobody higher than you, right, in		16	superviso	rs should be keeping track of	
17	that statio	on?		17	investigations if they're late.		
18	Α.	No.		18		Was that correct?	
19	Q.	Okay. So it would have been your		19	A.	Station commanders or	
20	responsib	ility to know what was going on in		20	supervisors.		
21	your stati	on.		21	Q.	Supervisors.	
22		Wouldn't it?		22	Α.	Supervisors. Correct.	
23	A.	It is very difficult to know		23	Q.	And station commanders are	
24	everythin	g going on in your station.		24	responsib	le to make sure their supervisors	
25	Q.	Okay. But you were present for		25	are doing	their job.	
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36 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 1 JOSEPH TRIPP 2 Isn't that correct? 2 does? 3 3 Again, trooper takes a report, A. That is correct. 4 So he testified accurately and 4 submits it to the crime supervisor is if it's Q. 5 correctly into that area. 5 a criminal investigation. He then keeps 6 Correct? 6 track of when the supplemental reports are 7 7 A. Correct. do. 8 8 Q. Now, did you keep track of this Q. Uh-huh. 9 concealment of the whereabouts of child 9 And it's your job to make sure that he does his job. 10 investigation? 10 11 A. As far as making sure that it was 11 Correct? 12 submitted on time? 12 A. Correct. 13 13 And you told me a moment ago you To make sure that the rules and Q. regulations of the Pennsylvania State Police 14 kept watch on this one. 14 were being followed. 15 Correct? 15 16 A. For this particular 16 A. I didn't say I -- I said I was 17 investigation? 17 updated. 18 We don't do that for 18 Q. Well -particular --19 19 A. I never said I kept watch on it. -- this was, I believe you 20 Q. Is there --20 Q. testified to in the arbitration, an unusual 21 -- investigations. A. 21 thing. Is there a difference on criminal 22 Q. 22 23 23 investigations? A. It is. 24 One type doesn't get 24 Q. So that testimony was correct. 25 25 followed up on and is allowed and another one Right?